



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

BOVINE TB ERADICATION PROJECT

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Dairy herd in Northeast Michigan diagnosed with bovine TB

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), Michigan State University (MSU) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) today confirmed that a dairy cattle herd in Montmorency County has been diagnosed with bovine Tuberculosis (TB), according to Bob Bender, the state's Bovine TB Eradication Coordinator. Bovine TB is a bacterial disease that affects primarily the upper respiratory tract of cattle and white-tail deer in Northeast Michigan.

"Under the Federal Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, all dairy cattle in Michigan must have an annual whole-herd test in order to ship milk to market," Bender said. "Even though, pasteurization destroys the bacteria that causes bovine TB, testing animals and removing reactor animals from the farm provides additional protection."

Producers must show other state and federal trading partners that their cattle, goats, bison and privately-owned cervids have been tested and are TB-free. Wildlife surveillance and statewide testing will eventually enable Michigan to regain the USDA's designation as Bovine TB Accredited-Free. This TB-Free Accreditation will once again allow for free trade.

USDA epidemiologists and MDA officials are working with the herd's owner to determine further action. Currently, producers have two options when a herd is diagnosed with bovine TB: The owner may opt to depopulate the herd and receive indemnification (reimbursement), or undergo a stringent quarantine test-and-removal plan.

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“This dairy farm is located in the original five-county area of Northeast Michigan where the disease was first discovered,” Bender said. “Within a 10-mile radius of this farm we have identified two additional cattle herds, 13 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer, two coyotes and one privately-owned deer herd as being TB positive.”

To date, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has tested 39,500 white-tailed deer with a total of 285 confirmed to be bovine TB-positive. MDA, USDA and accredited veterinarians have conducted over 156,674 TB-tests on cattle, goats and bison statewide. Bovine TB has been found in 10 cattle herds in Northeast Michigan. Additionally over 8,400 privately-owned cervids have been TB tested. MDA’s Animal Industry Division plans to complete TB testing of all cattle, goats, privately-owned cervids and bison by 2003. MDA covers the cost of whole-herd TB testing.

The Bovine TB eradication project involves a multi-agency team of experts from the Michigan Departments of Agriculture (MDA), Community Health (DCH) and Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan State University (MSU) and the US Department of Agriculture.

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